



KINGTON URBAN DISTRICT

Herefordshire  
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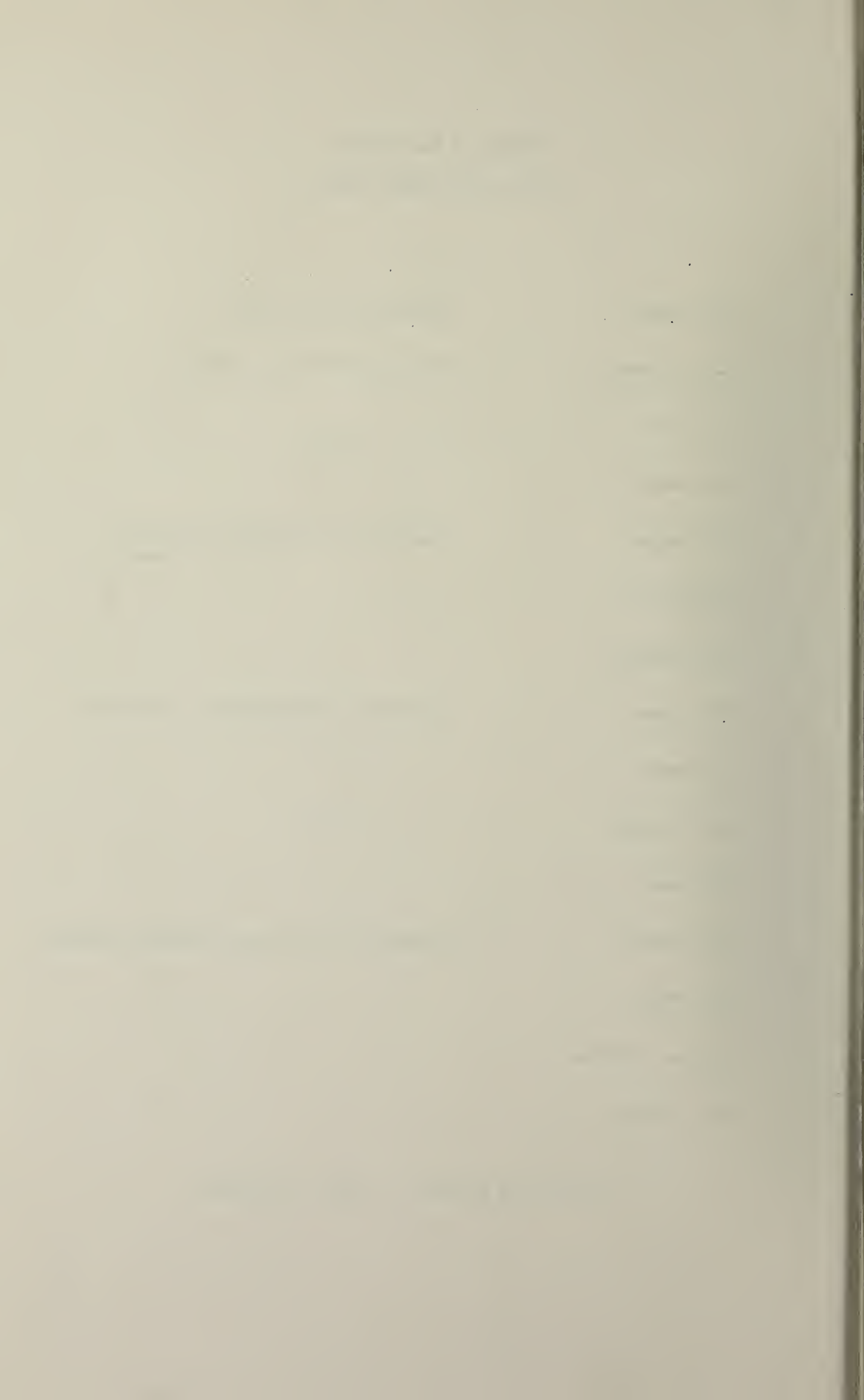
Joint  
ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
Medical Officer of Health  
and of the  
Public Health Inspector  
for the year 1968  
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MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL  
(As at 31st December 1968)

J.K. Dawson	Chairman of the Council
J.E.A. Deacon	Vice-Chairman of the Council
R.A. Banks	
R.D. Bailey	
P.H. Briggs	Chairman of the Finance & Planning Committee
W.W.E. Cole	
E.L. Gregory	
T.R. James	Chairman of the Development Committee
P. Johnson	
J.H. Langston	
R.A. Lowe	
B.M. Pennell	Chairman of the General Purposes Committee
E.R. Smith	
Miss L. Stephens	
H.B. Vaughan	

Clerk of the Council .. Mrs. D.M. Branston



To the Chairman and Members of the Kington Urban District  
Council.

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1968, together with the report of the Public Health Inspector, which latter contains much interesting material.

The only matters to which I would draw attention are that, for the third year running there have been no infant deaths in the District; and to the rather large drop in the birth rate. I think this latter is probably a statistical phenomenon as the figures to which the rates relate are so small.

I would like to thank Mr. Arney for his help and cooperation during the past year.

G.D.K. NEEDHAM

Medical Officer of Health

G.D.K. NEEDHAM, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health,

Westfield Walk,

LEOMINSTER.

(Telephone: Leominster 2049)

N.J. ARNEY, C.R.S.H., A.I.A.S. (Ret'd),

Building Surveyor and Public Health Inspector,

2, Mill Street,

KINGTON.

(Telephone: Kington 202)

STATISTICS AND VITAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres) .. .. .	857
Estimated mid-year home population .. .. .	1,910
Average number of persons per acre .. .. .	2.2
Number of inhabited houses .. .. .	681
Average number of inhabited houses per acre .. .. .	0.8
Average number of persons per house .. .. .	2.8
Rateable Value .. .. .	£65,127
Sum represented by a Penny Rate .. .. .	£248

LIVE AND STILL BIRTHSLive Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	9	11	20
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<hr/> 9	<hr/> 11	<hr/> 20

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

Comparability factor: 1.13	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964
Kington U.D. (Crude)	10.5	18.4	16.8	19.3	15.2
" " (Adjusted)	11.9	20.8	18.9	21.8	17.2
England and Wales	16.9	17.2	17.7	18.0	18.4

Illegitimate Live Births

Per cent of total live births:

Kington U.D.	..	Nil
England and Wales	..	*

Still Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births:

	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964
Kington U.D.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
England and Wales	14.0	14.8	15.4	15.7	16.3

\*figure not yet available

INFANT DEATH RATESEarly Neonatal MortalityDeaths of Infants under 1 week old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Early Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births:

Kington U.D.	.. Nil
England and Wales	.. 10.5

Neonatal MortalityDeaths of Infants under 4 weeks old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births:

Kington U.D.	.. Nil
England and Wales	.. 12.3

Perinatal MortalityStill Births and Deaths of Infants under 1 week old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births:

Kington U.D.	.. Nil
England and Wales	.. 25.0

Infant MortalityDeaths of Infants under 1 year of age

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-



Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 related live births:

		1968	1967	1966	1965	1964
Kington U.D.	(Total	Nil	Nil	Nil	28.6	68.9
	(Legitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	80.0
	(Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
England & Wales	(Total	18.0	18.3	19.0	19.0	19.9
	(Legitimate	*	*	*	*	19.4
	(Illegitimate	*	*	*	*	26.3

#### MATERNAL MORTALITY

Total number of Maternal Deaths .. Nil

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births:

Kington U.D. .. Nil  
England and Wales .. \*

#### DEATHS

	Males	Females	Total
Total number of deaths from all causes:	12	21	33

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

Comparability factor: 0.56	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964
Kington U.D. (Crude)	17.3	16.3	22.1	16.8	14.1
" " (Adjusted)	9.7	10.1	13.7	9.9	9.0
England and Wales	11.9	11.2	11.7	11.5	11.3

#### Cancer

	Males	Females	Total
Total deaths from Malignant Disease:	2	6	8

Cancer Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964
Kington U.D.	4.19	1.05	5.79	1.57	2.09
England and Wales	*	2.27	2.25	2.23	2.20

#### Cardio-Vascular Disease

	Males	Females	Total
Total deaths from Cardio-Vascular Disease:	5	10	15

\*figures not available



Cardio-Vascular Disease (Continued)

Cardio-Vascular Disease Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year  
home population:

	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964
Kington U.D.	7.85	10.53	12.10	10.99	8.90
England and Wales	*	5.77	5.97	5.95	5.73

Respiratory Disease (excluding Tuberculosis)

	Males		Females		Total
Total deaths from Respiratory Disease:	4		3		7
Respiratory Disease Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:					
	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964
Kington U.D.	3.66	1.58	2.10	2.09	1.05
England and Wales	*	1.37	1.60	1.41	1.37

\*figures not yet available

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

	Males	Females	Total
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
Other malignant neoplasms, etc.	1	2	3
Ischaemic heart disease	2	3	5
Other forms of heart disease	-	4	4
Cerebrovascular disease	2	3	5
Other diseases of circulatory system	1	-	1
Bronchitis and emphysema	4	3	7
Cirrhosis of liver	-	1	1
Other diseases of digestive system	-	1	1
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	1	-	1
	12	21	33

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE - KINGTON U.D.

Disease	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964
Measles	22	17	31	7	27
Scarlet Fever	-	2	-	3	-
+ Infective Jaundice	2	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	4	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	2	-	-	-
Tuberculosis:					
Non-Pulmonary	-	1	1	-	-

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE - NORTH HEREFORDSHIRE

Whooping Cough	18	47	37	5	70
Measles	526	314	271	525	609
Scarlet Fever	11	11	29	12	8
* Erysipelas	-	2	4	3	2
Acute Encephalitis:					
Infective	-	-	2	-	-
Post-Infectious	1	-	-	-	-
* Acute Pneumonia	3	5	9	3	8
+ Infective Jaundice	8	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	1	-	-	-
Dysentery	17	285	92	6	3
Food Poisoning	6	10	9	8	14
* Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	1
Tuberculosis:					
Pulmonary	1	3	4	8	10
Non-Pulmonary	3	2	3	3	3

\* Ceased to be notifiable from 1.10.68.

+ Notifiable from 15.6.68.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN NORTH HEREFORDSHIRE DURING THE YEAR 1968.

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Whooping Cough	1	3	-	-	4	3	-	-	-	4	2	1	18
Measles	-	3	146	133	39	112	66	24	-	-	1	2	526
Scarlet Fever	1	-	2	2	2	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	11
Acute Encephalitis:													
Post-Infectious	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
* Acute Pneumonia	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
+ Infective Jaundice	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	3	1	1	8
Dysentery	-	-	14	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	17
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	6
* Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Tuberculosis:													
Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Non-Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	3

\* Ceased to be notifiable from 1.10.68.

+ Notifiable from 15.6.68.

TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Number on Register at 31st December, 1967.	5	6	1	1
Died from other causes	-	-	-	1
Number on Register at 31st December, 1968.	5	6	1	-

Year	New Notifications	Total cases on Register	Deaths	Recoveries
1964	1	13	-	-
1965	-	13	-	-
1966	1	14	-	-
1967	1	13	-	2
1968	-	12	-	-

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 47

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951

No action needed to be taken under this section during the year.



## PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S SECTION OF REPORT

### GENERAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND INSPECTIONS

As mentioned in the body of this Report, the erection of 42 dwellings at the Council's Gravel Hill Housing site was started in late August and in addition to the normal duties I was asked to undertake the supervision of this scheme as Clerk of Works. Whilst it was appreciated that no sort of constant supervision would be possible it was felt that a reasonable amount of time should be devoted to this work.

The Appointed Day for the commencement of metric design for the building and construction industries will be upon us at the beginning of 1969 - 'the year of metric' - and it will be necessary to make an effort to come to terms with the new "language" of construction in all its aspects.

There has been no let up in the flow of paper work from governmental and other departments referred to in the report for 1967.

#### 1. WATER SUPPLY

The source of the town's water is a spring at Crooked Well, augmented as necessary from a borehole nearby and from loop mains supplying the circumscribing rural area. Some out-lying properties are still supplied from individual private springs and wells, but the County Council residential home at Kingswood Hall was connected to the mains during the year under review.

The quantity has remained ample for the town's needs for drinking and dietetic and general purposes. The remarks of the Public Analyst on samples (one untreated, one treated) on the quality of the water from a chemical standpoint are as follows:

" These samples are substantially the same water, but sample 2, which has been chlorinated, is better oxidised than sample 1, but both samples are suitable for use (from a chemical standpoint) in a public supply for domestic use"

Results of regular samples taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at the County Hospital for bacteriological examination are summarised as under:

Source	Total	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Mains supply	10	10	Nil
Private supplies	2	1	1*

\* A repeat sample from this source shewed a very small number of organisms for a 'shallow' well.

WATER SUPPLY (Continued)

No. of houses supplied direct from mains into houses:	665
No. of houses supplied via standpipes:	3
No. of houses supplied by private undertaking:	1
No. of houses supplied by wells/springs:	8

2. SEWAGE DISPOSAL AND DRAINAGESewerage and Disposal

The town's sewage, which is mainly domestic in character, gravitates to the Sewage Disposal Works situate at the Eastern extremity of the district, whence it passes through constant velocity grit channels and detritus screens and is then pumped to the sedimentation tanks which remove suspended matter.

Settled sewage then passes via a venturi flume and flow regulator to the biological rotary percolating filters, thence to the humus tanks, the settled sludge wherefrom returns to the pumping station: purified effluent being discharged to the River Arrow.

Raw sludge is pumped to sludge digestion tanks which reduce (by biological activity and removal of water) the volume. Sludge Drying Beds are available for air-drying and draining the digested sludge, but these are not utilised at the present time.

No complaints of smell nuisance from these works have been received during the past year.

No. of houses connected to public sewers:	594
No. of houses connected to satisfactory private disposal works:	59
No. of houses using chemical or pail closets with satisfactory disposal:	29
No. of houses using chemical or pail closets with unsatisfactory disposal:	Nil

3. COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF REFUSE

In the urban area a weekly collection of household refuse is undertaken, business premises in the town centre having a biweekly collection.

Collection is by means of direct labour, a driver/loader and another loader being employed, with a kerbside collection.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF REFUSE (Continued)

Disposal is by means of controlled tipping on obsolete sewage works contact beds, but at the end of the year the Council decided to consider the acquisition of a site for a new refuse tip in the adjoining parish of Kington Rural in the area of the circumscribing Rural District, and as a result plans were put in train for this project.

4. SWIMMING BATHS

Two swimming baths exist: one (outdoor) being situated in the grounds of the Lady Hawkins Bilateral School, the other consisting of an indoor (learner type) pool sited in the Junior Primary School precincts.

Both are supplied with water from the treated mains supply, but possess their own filtration and treatment plants, the attendants carrying out regular checks to ensure a safe chlorine residual.

Samples taken from these pools proved high satisfactory on bacteriological analysis.

5. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Existing facilities consist of ladies and gents. conveniences at the Recreation Ground and another at the town centre. They appear to be adequate for the needs of the town.

6. RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

One of the Council's employees acts as rodent operator, part-time, under the direction of the Surveyor.

Regular treatment is undertaken at the Council's refuse tip. The annual report to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is given on Page 19.

7. HOUSING(a) General

Some of the older houses in the area lack some of the essential amenities available in modern ones but, whilst they may be considered to be below a desirable standard they are not necessarily unfit. Encouragement is given to owners to improve the standard and the influence of improvement grants gradually makes itself felt.

It was necessary in one case to impose a closing order on part of a house which was considered unfit for human habitation, but in other cases it was possible to determine closing orders on their being brought up to fitness standards consequent upon the making of improvement grants.

Dangerous structures and buildings were rendered safe subsequent to informal and statutory notices being served in three cases.



HOUSING (Continued)(b) Private Housing

New houses completed during the year: 3

New houses under construction at the end  
of the year: 3

Flats (provided by conversion) under  
construction at the end of the year: 3

(c) Council Housing

The Council's proposals to erect 42 dwellings at their Gravel Hill Housing Site saw a start made on site works in the early Autumn. By the end of the year the foundations of the 18 flats and maisonettes (in two blocks) had been laid and it is hoped that, given reasonable building weather, by the mid-summer of 1969 some substantial progress will have been made with these, the Old Peoples Bungalows, and finally the 3 bedroomed houses.

A retained private Architect has been responsible for the coming to fruition of this development, and I act as part-time Clerk of Works.

On completion, this project should go a long way to alleviating the housing problem as it exists at Kington.

(d) Tenancies

A 'points' system is operated by the Council in connection with the selection of tenants.

(e) Improvement Grants

One application for a standard improvement grant was received during the year, and approved. 6 cases where standard grants had been granted were completed, but there had been no applications for discretionary grants. The appended table indicates the comparative position covering the past 5 years:

Year:	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964
No. of grants approved:	1	5	8	5	3

Standard improvements were made to 3 Council properties during the year: this left one pair of semi-detached Council Houses which require modernisation to complete the bringing into line of the various existing housing schemes. Plans were drawn up and approved for this to be done. By the end of the year Ministerial approval had not been forthcoming.

## 8. CARAVAN SITES

Only one caravan site exists and this is satisfactorily maintained, one individual residential caravan is sited thereon. Conditional approval was given for the siting of a non-residential caravan in a private garden.

The institution of proceedings against the unauthorised use of a site for caravans was being considered, but before this came to fruition the site was vacated and the action dropped.

## 9. FOOD PREMISES AND THE INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The principal food premises in the town are summarised as follows:

Dairies (milk store)	1
Slaughterhouse	1
Butchers	3
Bakehouses	3
Public Houses	12
Miscellaneous (restaurant kitchens, stores, etc)	21
	<hr/>
Total	41
	<hr/>

Inspections made .. 50

One factory bakehouse was completely re-decorated internally on informal representation being made to the owner.

Appended is a note of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:-

Storage and sale of pre-packed ice-cream	..	10
Preparation or manufacture of sausage meat	..	4
		<hr/>
Total		14
		<hr/>

The licence in respect of the small local private slaughterhouse was renewed for a further 12 months, and two slaughtermans' licences also renewed, a further licence being granted to slaughter or stun animals to the Chief Inspector of the R.S.P.C.A.

FOOD PREMISES AND THE INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS  
(Continued)

Sale of 'soft' ice-cream (self service)

The production of 'soft' ice-cream to satisfy public demand made its appearance in Kington early in the year.

It is sold from a modern cabinet which maintains an adequate temperature control, and it is stored in a reasonable manner.

Some misgivings regarding possible contamination because of the difficulty in selling and handling (especially by the public) of this product are felt by sanitarians.

It is noteworthy that the average Englishman consumes 1 gallon of ice-cream per annum, but the trade aims to bring the scale up to the American level of 6 gallons.

Control by sampling of this product may therefore be necessary to ensure that such expansion takes place under safe and hygienic conditions in this particular connection.

Milk Sampling

Samples of milk supplied under the "Milk in Schools" scheme and submitted to the laboratory for examination gave the following results:-

Designation	Tests		Result
	Methylene Blue	Phosphatase	
1. Pasteurised	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Conformed
2. "	"	"	"
3. "	*Failed ( $\frac{1}{2}$ hr)	"	Did not conform
4. "	Satisfactory	"	Conformed
5. "	"	"	"

\* Repeat sample conformed to prescribed tests

Food Inspections

Miscellaneous small amounts of tinned goods and other articles of food were examined, found to be unfit for human consumption and surrendered voluntarily.

One tin of fruit was found to contain a foreign body but on pursuing the matter with the manufacturers an acceptable explanation was furnished.



FOOD PREMISES AND INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS  
(Continued)

Meat Inspection

Regular bi-weekly examination of all home-killed food animals are made at the slaughterhouse. The details of the number of animals killed and inspected are as follows:-

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	122	Nil	Nil	47	288
<u>All diseases except Tuber- culosis and Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	11	Nil	Nil	2	2
<u>Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses or part condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1 (part)

10. OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Tables A. and C. - Registrations and General Inspections

Class of Premises	Premises registered during the year	Total premises registered at the end of year	Premises receiving general inspection during the year	Number of persons employed
Offices	-	1	-	8
Retail shops	-	5	5	24
Wholesale shops, warehouses	-	-	-	-
Catering establish- ments open to the public, canteens	-	-	3	-
Fuel storage depots	-	-	2	-
TOTALS	-	6	10	32 (Males 14 Females 18)

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963 (Continued)Table B.

Number of visits of all kinds to registered premises: 12

11. FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPSFactories Act, 1961Inspections

	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sec.1,2,3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	23	18	3	Nil
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by L.A.	18	4	1	Nil
(3) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by L.A. (excluding out-workers' premises)	1	1	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	42	23	4	Nil

Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	2	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	1	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	3	3	2	-	-

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949Annual Report on Rats and Mice to the Ministry of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Food

<u>Properties other than sewers</u>	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricul- tural	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in district	815	6
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	38	-
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	38	-
(ii) Mice	-	-
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	24	-
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	2	-
(ii) Mice	-	-
<u>Sewers</u>		
4. Were any sewers infested by rats during the year ?	NO.	

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS (Continued from Page 18)

During the year a new factory (wearing apparel) was completed at Butts Meadow, with a total floor area of 7,502 square feet (5,000 sq. ft. in production) The average number of persons employed is 94 (escape certificate relates to 120).







